

distinguished conduct. The Imperial Service Transport Corps which has also been made available for active service will, we trust, acquit itself with equal credit. However small our contributions may seem when compared to the magnitude of the operations, they are the best practical expression we are able to give to the warmth of our devotion and our sense of Imperial obligation at this great crisis.

Seasonal Conditions.

3. The seasonal conditions of the past year have been favourable. The rains were ample and timely in all the districts of the State except Tumkur, Shimoga and Kadur, and even in these three districts, agricultural operations were not materially affected by the shortage of rainfall. Save in the case of the coffee crop in the Kadur District, the produce throughout the State came up to the normal. No complaints were received of dearth of fodder or of drinking water from any part of the State.

*Prospects of the
Current Monsoon.*

4. The prospects during the current monsoon are, on the whole, good. The rainfall in the *maidan* districts has exceeded, in July and August, the average of the previous ten years, the excess in the Kolar District being as high as 8 inches. On the other hand, the rainfall in the *malnad* districts of Shimoga, Kadur and Hassan fell short of the average, the deficiency in the first two districts being 9 and 12 inches, respectively, in July. Most of the tanks are full, fodder is abundant, and although the ragi crop has suffered somewhat on account of excess of rain, the agricultural operations may be said to be progressing satisfactorily and the indications are all in favour of a good harvest and a prosperous year.

2:—Administration—General.

*The Representative
Assembly.*

5. As announced at the last session, His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to accord to the members of this Assembly the privilege of discussing the State budget. I have no doubt that the members have studied the budget as well as the rules of discussion. For the convenience of those who are not acquainted with

English, abstracts of the budget have been prepared in Kannada and circulated.

Four hundred and fifteen subjects, in all, were discussed at the last session of the Assembly, out of which 279 have been finally disposed of and 136 are under consideration. Including the subjects of previous years, the number pending is 281.

6. The Legislative Council met five times during the year and considered 19 bills including the five pending from the previous year. The privilege of asking supplementary questions has been accorded to the members, and the total number of questions that may be asked at a single sitting has been raised from 12 to 20. *The Legislative Council.*

7. The seventh session of the Mysore Economic Conference was held in June 1916. The work done will be referred to in a future section of the Address. *The Economic Conference.*

8. Among the more important events of interest to our State, during the year, may be mentioned the confirmation, by the Government of India, in March last, of the award of the Arbitration Committee appointed for settling the points of difference between the Government of Madras and the Government of His Highness the Maharaja, regarding the storage of the Cauvery waters. The final decision of the Government of India has enabled the Durbar to undertake the second stage of the reservoir project which, when completed, will bring under irrigation an additional extent of land of over 125,000 acres, in the Mandya, Malvalli, Nagamangala and T. Narasipur Taluks. *The Cauvery Arbitration.*

9. There appears to be considerable misconception, particularly among the inhabitants of the Cauvery delta in the Tanjore and Trichinopoly Districts, regarding the effect of this award. Statements have been made in the press and at public meetings that the decision has been too favourable to Mysore and injurious to the interests of Madras. This view probably found currency with the public, partly on account of the technical character of the points involved in the dispute and partly because, owing to the delicacy of the situation, it was not possible to contradict earlier the one-sided agitation that has been going on in the Madras Presidency.

At present the total area irrigated in the Cauvery valley within Mysore territory is 115,000 acres. The corresponding area in the lower reaches of the river within the Madras Presidency is 1,225,500 acres; that is, to

say, 92 per cent of the area irrigated by the river lies in the Madras Presidency, and only 8 per cent in Mysore.

Three-fourths of the total water supply of the river passes through the Mysore territory, but, as stated above, the benefits derived by the State are wholly incommensurate with the high proportion of the total flow contributed by Mysore.

A large surplus flow in the river goes to waste into the sea, year after year, after meeting the needs of both Mysore and Madras irrigation. The Mysore project is intended to store only a small portion of this surplus.

While the Mysore reservoir is intended to hold a storage of a little over 40,000 million cubic feet, proposals have been matured by the Madras Government for constructing a reservoir of double this capacity practically from the same catchment at a point within the Madras Presidency just outside the Mysore boundary.

The extension of irrigation proposed within the Mysore State is only 150,000 acres. The Madras project on the other hand contemplated the extension of the already large irrigation in that Presidency by 320,000 acres, that is to say, by more than double the area which will be irrigated by the Mysore reservoir.

10. These two facts, *viz.*, that there is ample surplus water in the river and that the Madras Government had themselves proposed the construction of a storage reservoir of a capacity double that of ours and for the irrigation of more than double the area contemplated by us, afford unmistakable proof that, with suitable regulation of storage, the construction of our reservoir would in no way interfere with the existing irrigation. It is admitted on all hands that Madras is entitled only to as much water as is required to safeguard its existing irrigation.

11. The above bare statement of facts, from which legal and engineering technicalities are excluded, will perhaps suffice to show that we have not asked for, and certainly have not received, any special consideration in this matter. The construction of the reservoir will only enable us to utilise, to a very moderate extent, the legitimate advantages to which Mysore is entitled by reason of its natural situation with reference to the river. This recognition of our rights, moreover, is accompanied by conditions which will be found to be very onerous as time goes on. For instance, we are required by the award to deliver a constant supply of 900 cubic feet per second

regularly in the hot weather, while the natural river flow is on occasions as low as one-tenth of that discharge. It is true our main contentions have been conceded but it is difficult to suppose that we have not paid a heavy price for success.

12. His Highness' Government are greatly indebted to the Government of India for having had this important question investigated and settled so promptly by an expert committee.

3.—Finance.

13. According to the revised budget estimates, the total revenue for 1915-16 was Rs. 284.85 lakhs and the total ordinary service expenditure Rs. 260.98 lakhs, showing a surplus of Rs. 23.87 lakhs. Including an extraordinary outlay on capital account works of Rs. 60.31 lakhs, the total expenditure came to Rs. 321.29 lakhs, or Rs. 36.44 lakhs in excess of the revenue. *Revised Estimate for 1915-16.*

14. The State budget for 1916-17 was placed before the Legislative Council on the 29th June 1916 and discussed by that body on the 18th and 19th July last. As finally passed, it estimates for a revenue of Rs. 2,86,22,000, that is, Rs. 1,37,000 more than in the past year and provides for an expenditure amounting to Rs. 2,85,94,000 as against Rs. 2,60,98,000. The details are given in statement A. *Budget Estimate for 1916-17.*

The assets and liabilities of the State as they stood on 1st July 1916 are set forth in statement B.

15. The expenditure of the State is regulated by means of triennial forecasts which are revised at the beginning of every year and which enable us to look ahead and calculate our resources and requirements three years in advance. The actual results compared with the forecasts have been uniformly favourable showing that our estimates are usually conservative.

16. As I have stated on various other occasions, we shall soon have to face the problem of financing our public works programme. We have in recent years spent over two